THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that it has received and is still receiving in large number of complaints of violation of model code of conduct by means of letters, telegrams, telax, fax messages and on telephone and it had not been possible for it to compile the details of all these complaints.

(c) The Election Commission has informed that no repoll had been ordered for violation of model code of conduct, though in one case relating to 62—Satna Assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh the original poll itself has been postponed due to such violation.

(d) The Commission has informed that it is strictly enforcing the model code of conduct.

Raising of holding by MNCs

2040. SRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI N. E. BALRAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 34 MNCs have already raised their holdings to 51 per cent or more and majority of them have effected the hikes at a massive discount and 24 more MNCs are expected to do the same on the coming months ;

(b) if so, whether Government favour this system of hiking share-holdings at heavy discount, if not, what action Government contemplate in this regard;

(c) the reasons for which foreign partners in companies manufacturing Soap, Tea or Cosmatics are allowed to have majority equity ;

(d) whether Government propose to issue new instructions to Financial Institutions to protect the interest of small share-holders and see that effective corporate democracy is restored ; and

(e) whether Government differentiate between stock issues by Indian and foreign promoters and give more privileges to foreign promoters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) Section 81 (IA) of the Companies Act, 1956 empowers a company to issue further shares to any person (whether any existing shareholders or other person, in any manner whatsoever if a special resolution to that effect is passed by the company in general meeting. Under the extant provisions, preferential allotemnt can be made to any person including 9 segment of existing shareholders on such price as may be approved by the shareholders in the general meeting. Several instances have come to the notice of the Government where Indian companies with foreign shareholding have increased their stake by issue of further shares to their principal abroad at a nominal premium below the market price after passing special resolution.

(c) The New Industrial Policy announced by the Government in July, 1991, *inter alia*, envisages allowing direct foreign investment upto 51% in Indian companies on selective basis.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

De-limitation of constituencies

2041. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to carryout De-Limitation of various Constituencies which have grown too large due to migration of population ;

(b) whether it is a fact that necessary legislation has been formulated ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for delay in passing a legislation in this regard ; and

(d Whether the States practicing family welfare programmes would be given any benefit in the matter of allotment of number of Constituencies to Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (d) The Constitution

(Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990 which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 1992 and is pending consideration in the Lok Sabha provides for delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 1991 census without affecting the total number of seats allocated to various States on the basis of 1971 census Action for setting up of Delimitation Commission can be taken only after the said Bill becomes an Act.

Free legal aid scheme in A. P.

2042. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of persons who were benefited by Legal Aid Programme during 1992-93 in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether Government propose to change the norms laid down for the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that the funds released under this scheme to Andhra Pradesh during 1992-93 were not utilised fully ; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) On the basis of the information received from the State Legal Aid and Advice Bodras, 11,30,771 persons were benefitted by Legal Aid Programmes during 1992-93 in the country which includes 2,227 persons from Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which is yet to be enforced, enhances the income ceiling from Rs. 6,000 to 9,000 upto High Court cases and from Rs. 9,000 to 12,000 for Supreme Court cases.

(c) and (d) Eight grantee institutions of Andhra Pradesh which were release grant-in-aid during 1992-93 were to render the accounts by 30th June, 1993. So far accounts have been received from four institutions. Three have utilised the entire grant of Rs. 10,000 and one institution has utilissed Rs. 9,638 out of the grant-in-aid of Rs. 10,000 released to it.

Criteria fixed for free legal aid

2043. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that free legal aid to the poor, women, widows and other weaker sections of the society is available in the country, particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what criteria has been fixed; and

(c) what is the number of persons who have been benefited by this legal aid programme in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana, during the period 1991—93 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the model Scheme evolved by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Scheme (CILAS), every citizen whose annal income from all sources does not exceeded Rs. 6,000 upto High Court cases and Rs. 9,000 for Supreme Court cases is entitled for free legal aid and advice. This limitation as to incomes does not apply in case of disputes where one of the parties belongs to Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes, Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes or is a women or a child. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which is yet to be enforced, enhances and income ceiling from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 9,000 upto High Court cases and Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 12,000 for Supreme Court Cases.

The income criteria prescribed by CILAS is the minimum. The State Governments may fix income ceiling higher than what has been prescribed by CILAS e.g. a resident of Punjab with an annual income of Rs. 18,000 is eligible for legal aid in the State of Punjab.

(c) As per information received by CILAS, the number of persons benefited by